

79 Young Street
East Hampton CT 06424
September 15, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

4606 '99 SEP 21 AIO:31

Re: Docket numbers:
98N-1230
96P-0418
97P-0197

To Whom It May Concern:

We urge you to ban the egg industry's forced molting of its hens. Our nation's egg farmers each year intentionally starve millions of hens for up to two weeks to manipulate egg production. This inhumane practice is so stressful that it destroys the hens' immune systems, predisposing the birds and their eggs to salmonella.

This not only brings intense suffering to the birds, but your own department's Food Safety and Inspection Service has said that "public health concerns are raised by highly stressful forced molting practices."

Since the FDA has jurisdiction to ban farm practices that injure human health, it should ban the practice of forced molting because it has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the hens' immune system. Forced molting of laying hens is the primary cause of infectious diseases in hens, eggs, and consumers.

The FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting. This petition should be granted without further delay. Merely, placing bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and regulating refrigeration temperatures is not enough to ensure human safety.

Sincerely,



Scott and Lori Walker

98N 1230

C 661

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Docket Number/Item Code: 98N-1230/C661

See Docket Number/Item Code: 97P-0197/C662
96P-0418/C661

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